



# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

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## **5 Things to Know for November 3, 2022**

Only three-and-a-half weeks until members gather together in Wenatchee for WACD's 80th anniversary conference!

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# Conservation



## **Is Everyone's Business**

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## Dear Thomas,

It is a busy time for your WACD Board members and staff as we work to deliver a successful annual conference and business meeting for you. Below, you'll find:

- Updated information on the WACD annual conference and business meeting, including a **new online sponsor donation system**;
- **Resolutions** from area meetings;
- Request for **Envirothon auction items**;
- Information about supporting the **Conservation Commission's decision packages**; and
- The latest **Plant Materials Center update**.

## 1 – Latest WACD annual conference and business meeting update

### Latest news:

- The draft minutes of the 2021 annual business meeting are available under the Business Meeting tab: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2022meetings/conference/#business>
- An online payment portal for sponsors is now available. Find a link to it under the Sponsors tab: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2022meetings/conference/#sponsors>
- Registration information was previously provided and is included below. WACD is inviting conservation districts to host "poster sessions" on [Monday afternoon from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm](#). Poster sessions are tables where a conservation district representative will be present to talk about projects that conservation district wishes to highlight to other Association members.

### Previously:

- **Hotel registration deadline:** November 17th is the deadline to make hotel reservations at the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel. See the October 11th news item on the [2022 WACD Annual Conference page](#) for the information you need to make reservations. One change has occurred: we negotiated group rates for Sunday night, November 27th so those of you who wish to come to Wenatchee on Sunday can enjoy the conference discount.
- **Conference registration deadline:** November 18th is the deadline to register with WACD for the conference. Registration information is in the October 21st news item on the [2022 WACD Annual Conference page](#). After November 18th, conference registration will cost \$50 more per person. We do this to set our attendee number for the Wenatchee Convention Center by that date and late additions cost us more. WACD is pricing the conference registration at a revenue neutral cost this year.
- **Sessions are filling out:** You'll see on the [Sessions tab](#) of the [2022 WACD Annual Conference page](#) that more detail is available about sessions. WACD will continue to publish more detail as we get commitments from presenters.

## 2 – Resolutions are assigned to committees

Last week, the WACD Executive Committee met to assign resolutions to the [Natural Resources Committee](#) and to the [Legislative, Bylaws, and District Policies Committee](#). WACD President Mumford also made some changes to committee membership; current members are listed at

the two committee links above.

Find the list of resolutions and the committee meeting schedule on the [Resolutions tab](#). The committees will meet on November 7th to hear testimony from the original sponsor district and ask questions. On November 17th, the committees will meet to offer amendments to resolutions and to adopt recommendations on resolutions.

On November 21st, the WACD Board of Directors will hold a regular business meeting and will make final recommendations on proposed changes to WACD bylaws. There is one proposed change that would allow for one of the two area director positions in each area to be held by a conservation district manager/executive director. (The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts allows some board positions to be filled by district employees. The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts does the same. Both associations feel they have benefited from this change.) The WACD Board of Directors needs to hear your comments before the November 21st meeting. Please send your comments to the Executive Office staff at [oly@wacd.org](mailto:oly@wacd.org) so that we can compile and transmit them to the Board before that meeting.

#### **Resolutions for the Natural Resources Committee:**

- [2022-01 WACD HAB Resolution \(Whidbey Island CD\)\\_\(78 downloads\)](#)
- [2022-02 Ecology Stock Water Policy \(Okanogan CD\)\\_\(87 downloads\)](#)
- [2022-03 Stock Water Rights \(Stevens County CD\)\\_\(81 downloads\)](#)

#### **Resolutions for the Legislative, Bylaws, and District Policies Committee:**

- [2022-04 Good Faith Contracts \(Whitman CD\)\\_\(81 downloads\)](#)
- [2022-05 Streamlining Permitting Process \(Stevens County CD\)\\_\(72 downloads\)](#)
- [2022-06 Cost-Share Rates on Public Lands \(Okanogan CD\)\\_\(76 downloads\)](#)
- [2022-07 Ecology Water Bank Program \(Okanogan CD\)\\_\(72 downloads\)](#)
- [2022-08 Shared Conservation District Resources \(Clark CD\)\\_\(77 downloads\)](#)
- [2022-09 Removing population criteria and per parcel maximum annual rate \(Pierce CD\)\\_\(77 downloads\)](#)
- [2022-10 Removing population criteria and per parcel maximum annual rate \(Thurston CD\)\\_\(78 downloads\)](#)
- [2022-11 Review of FSA practice standards \(Foster Creek CD\)\\_\(74 downloads\)](#)
- [2022-12 NRCS Easements and easement programming recommended areas of improvement \(Skagit CD\)\\_\(70 downloads\)](#)

### **3 – Envirothon auction items needed**

WACD's members have provided significant support to Envirothon through participation in an annual auction. That auction is happening again this year! Find details under the [Envirothon tab](#).

Ideas for auction items include: gift cards, signed memorabilia, event tickets, outdoor gear, themed baskets, and resort and trip packages.

## 4 – Supporting the Commission's decision packages

Every two years, the Governor is required to present a draft budget to the legislature. That budget of his priorities and programs is released in late November/early December. Ahead of that release, he works with the Office of Financial Management to prioritize funding priorities.

Where WACD and districts can play a role in supporting programs right now is by showing support for the Conservation Commission before those decisions are made. We've written a sample letter for districts to use as a template for their own use, speaking to why you believe state funding is necessary for your district programs. That [template and additional information](#) are available on the Hub.

## 5 – Plant Materials Center update

The WACD PMC continues to astound all of us with another report of record-setting sales. Potential challenges await with another [La Niña winter](#) ahead of us, making bareroot harvesting wet and cold work:

*Forecasters are predicting a “[three-peat La Niña](#)” this year. This will be the third winter in a row that the Pacific Ocean has been in a La Niña cycle, something that's happened only twice before in records going back to 1950.*

This is also the time of year when we are able to share lovely fall images like the one below. To see a few more and to read the update, jump to the [PMC update for November 3rd](#).



# Washington Conservation Society

## Environmental Education Mini-grants

A key goal of the Washington Conservation Society (WCS) is to support educational opportunities for youth by sponsoring environmental/conservation education programs in Washington State. To that end, the WCS sets aside an annual contribution in an amount determined by the WCS Board of Directors that is used to provide grants to members. Those grants assist in funding environmental/conservation education programs for youth as the first priority for funding. [Applications are accepted until November 1st.](#)

## Leaving a Legacy Program

Each year, WCS publishes Leaving a Legacy, a memorial and celebratory book of conservationists who have made a notable impact on the natural resources in Washington State. Inductees include past and present Supervisors, district volunteers, and agency partners. The book includes photos and biographical information. More information about the program and a digital copy of [the book can be found on the WCS website.](#)

If you are aware of a past conservation district supervisor or employee who has passed, please reach out to the WCS folks so that they can seek information for the Leaving a Legacy book.

## Become a Member

The goals of the WCS are to support conservation activities, natural resource education programs, and to recognize and honor individuals who exemplify the ethic and practice of sound conservation principles. Your membership directly supports WCS's Environmental Education Mini-grant Program. [Become a member today.](#)

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## Recent Posts on the Hub

- [Plant Materials Center update: November 3, 2022](#)
- [OACD Recruiting for Executive Director](#)
- [NRCS has a new website](#)
- [Riparian Plant Propagation Program Manager](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: October 20, 2022](#)
- [Support Letter Template Available](#)
- [Plant Materials Center update: October 13, 2022](#)
- [Conservation Specialist \(Term\) Announcement – October 2022](#)
- [HABs Work Group Produces Report and Recommendations](#)
- [Oregon health advisory warns of toxic contaminants in lamprey | OPB](#)

See the full list of Recent Posts at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/posts/>. Many news articles that mention Washington State conservation districts are [shared on Flipboard](#). In the [WACD Reading List](#) we capture many articles of interest to segments of our community.

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## From your Executive Director

### *The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts meeting*

It has certainly been a busy three weeks for me. I wrapped up the flurry of area association meetings by attending the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts meeting in Newport, Oregon. Reconnecting with many people I knew was a welcome experience and what I learned has bearing on some of WACD's work.

Did you know that just like Washington, Oregon has 45 conservation districts that were formed under state law, and one tribal conservation district? Although Oregon calls them soil and water conservation districts, they are very much just like our conservation districts in Washington.

Just like in Washington, Oregon has some densely populated conservation districts along the I-5 corridor and a bigger bucket of rural, sparsely populated districts elsewhere. The same wide gulf in funding we see in our districts is also the case in Oregon.

Where we differ a bit is in governance and funding. Conservation district board members in Oregon are called "directors." Each conservation district is certified by the Oregon Department of Agriculture as having a five-director board or a seven-director board. Every director is elected in a November general election to serve a four-year term.

The differences in governance also extend to the OACD Board of Directors where a number of seats are filled by conservation district employees. The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts also includes some seats for conservation district employees. Both OACD and CARCD have shared with me that they feel their associations have benefited from the knowledge, skills, and abilities brought to their boards by employees. The WACD Board of Directors will consider whether to move such a proposal forward this year for consideration by WACD members.

On the funding side, Oregon conservation districts can ask their voters to approve a permanent tax rate. This is structured as a levy on real property. More than a decade ago, Clackamas County voters approved a tax rate for the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District not to exceed 5 cents per \$1,000 in property value. This levy generates about \$1.5 million a year for the CSWCD. Some districts levy more than this and some less. As in Washington, more sparsely populated areas see less opportunity in using this tool to generate much needed operating funds.

The OACD meeting is not as well attended as WACD's annual meeting. It is a smaller group in Oregon that gathers together. I would guess about 65-70 people were in attendance. Everybody attends every session.

What really struck me at the OACD meeting was the warmth expressed by attendees. They have not had a large, in-person meeting since COVID arrived; this was their first big get together. There were countless hugs and smiles and laughter as folks reconnected with each other. A strong sense of family prevailed.

All attendees had full access to the speakers and to each other. Oregon is very clearly a "first name basis" kind of state where the NRCS State Conservationist knows almost every conservation district board director and employee by name. There was a great mix of conservation district people, state agencies, federal partners, and non-governmental organizations present.

I was part of a partner panel and was positioned to be the wrap-up presenter. My pitch was that OACD and WACD should partner more closely. Many of the resource issues and approaches that we use in western Oregon and western Washington are the same. That is also true for the eastern Oregon and eastern Washington landscapes. While our legislatures differ, we do have opportunities to leverage each other at the congressional level. Together, we can present a more united front on some key issues and thus be more effective. OACD's Executive Director Jan Lee will be attending our WACD annual conference so you'll get a chance to hear a bit more about Oregon directly from her.

I left the OACD meeting warmed by the appreciation shown by attendees. There were many hugs and handshakes and hellos. For me, this sets the stage for our WACD 80th anniversary annual conference and business meeting. I am expecting that our large family of members will come together in a future-focused effort to solve challenges and create opportunities. Everyone's bandwidth is limited and it seems as if individuals don't have much capacity to dwell on the past while simultaneously looking forward. The challenges and opportunities before us are many and I look forward to WACD's members investing their energy on what's ahead.

Always yours in conservation,

Tom Salzer, Executive Director  
[tsalzer@wadistricts.org](mailto:tsalzer@wadistricts.org)

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## Partners are important!

Find our list of partners at <https://hub.wadistricts.org/wacd/partners-sponsors/partners/>.

- [Friends of NACD](#) – Your contributions provide funding for technical assistance grants to conservation districts.
- [Washington Conservation Society](#) – WCS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization so your contributions are tax-deductible. If you make purchases through Amazon Smile, a portion of your purchases goes to WCS in support of their programs and initiatives.

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## We appreciate our great sponsors

Many thanks to our generous sponsors for helping us support Washington State's conservation districts: <https://hub.wadistricts.org/annual/2021meetings/conference/#sponsors>



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## Pass it on!

Please pass this newsletter on to others in our conservation community so they can subscribe and be as informed as you are!

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